Message Text

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INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 0383
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, FR
SUBJECT: UNSUCCESSFUL FRENCH INITIATIVE REPORTED IN
PAN-EUROPEAN UNION MEETING

- 1. FRENCH PRESS AND WIRE SERVICE CARRYING BRIEF ACCOUNTS, ATTRIBUTED TO THEIR CORRESPONDENTS AT MARCH 5-6 GENEVA EUROPEAN TRADE UNION MEETING, TO EFFECT THAT FRENCH COMMUNIST CGT (SEGUY) AND SOCIALIST-ORIENTED CFDT (MAIRE) PROPOSED DISCUSSION OF PROTECTION AND EXTENSION TRADE UNION LIBERTIES. INITIATIVE REPORTEDLY MET WITH OVERWHELMINGLY NEGATIVE RESPONSE; AND CGT AND CFDT ISOLATED. REPORTS CONFLICT OVER WHETHER THIS TOPIC WAS TO BE ADDED TO MARCH AGENDA OR INTENDED FOR MEETING SCHEDULED IN 1979.
- 2. ACCORDING TO THESE PRESS ACCOUNTS, THE WEST GERMAN, BRITISH AND SCANDANAVIAN DELEGATES REFUSED PUBLIC COMMENT; ITALIAN DELEGATION REPORTED TO HAVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SAID TIME NOT "RIPE" FOR SUCH DISCUSSIONS, WHICH IN ANY CASE WOULD REQUIRE LENGTHY ADVANCE PREPARATION, AND SPANISH SAID TO HAVE CLAIMED TO BE TOO BUSY WITH THEIR INTERNAL PROBLEMS. EASTERN EUROPEANS DESCRIBED AS GRATIFIED OVER INITIATIVE'S FAILURE.

3. SOME ACCOUNTS ATTRIBUTE WESTERN UNIONS' REFUSAL

TO SHOW ANY INTEREST IN CGT-CFDT INITIATIVE AS DUE TO THEIR BELIEF (PASSED ON TO PRESS IN "CORRIDORS") THAT IT INTENDED TO REALLY SERVE AS A VEHICLE FOR PROPAGANDA BLASTS AT ALLEGED VIOLATION OF TRADE UNION RIGHTS IN FRANCE, SPAIN AND WEST GERMANY.

4. GIVEN ABSENCE OF DISINTERESTED FRENCH SOURCES WHO ATTENDED GENEVA MEETING WE WOULD APPRECIATE HEARING OF ANY OTHER DELEGATION'S ACCOUNTS OF THE CGT-CFDT INITIATIVE, ITS FATE AND THEIR ESTIMATES OF ITS INTENT.
RUSH

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TAGS: ELAB, FR, XG, PAN-EUROPEAN TRADE UNION

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